

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A local entity without its own means of voice communication is provided with the
5 semblance of having a voice interaction capability. This is done by providing an associated
voice service hosted separately from the entity, the service being initiated when a user
comes near the entity. The service uses audio input and output devices that are located
either in user-carried equipment or in the locality of the entity. The voice service can be
delivered to multiple users simultaneously with the users being joined into the same
10 communication session with the voice service so that all users hear at least some of the
same service output. The voice service can be arranged to serve a group of associated
entities, not necessarily near each other.